

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ALLIANCE" TO BE CHRISTENED SATURDAY

1. THE PSOE "HISTORICAL" FACTION, ANTONIO GARCIA LOPEZ'S SMALL SPANISH SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSDE), AND CANTARERO DEL CASTILLO'S SPANISH SOCIAL REFORM (RSE) WILL ANNOUNCE ON SATURDAY THEIR MERGER TO FORM THE "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ALLIANCE", ACCORDING TO GARCIA LOPEZ. THIS IS THE SECOND STEP (REFTEL) IN A PROCESS OF AGGLUTINATION WHICH LEADERS OF THE THREE PARTIES (PSDE AND RSE ARE LEGAL, THE "HISTORICOS" APPLICATION IS PENDING) HOPE WILL RESULT IN THE FORMATION OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO WHAT THEY VIEW AS THE RADICAL SOCIALISM OF THE PSOE. WITH THIS END IN VIEW, A COORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED, HEADED BY GARCIA LOPEZ, CANTA-
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RERO AND "HISTORICO" SEC GEN MANUEL MURILLO, TO WORK FOR THE

ADHESION TO THE ALLIANCE OF OTHER CENTER LEFT MADRID BASED AND REGIONAL GROUPINGS, INCLUDING PALLACH'S CATALAN PCS.

2. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS CHARACTERIZE THE ALLIANCE AS BASICALLY AN ELECTROL COALITION, GARCIA LOPEZ TOLD EMBOFF DEC 2 THAT IN FACT IT REPRESENTS ALMOST THE COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF THE THREE PARTIES. HE HOPES THAT THE END RESULT WILL BE A FUSION OF ALL GROUPS MADRID BASED AND REGIONAL WHICH REPRESENT WHAT HE CALLS THE "TRADITIONAL" (AS OPPOSED TO "REVOLUTIONARY"-- I.E. PSOE AND PCE) SPANISH LEFT.

3. THE ALLIANCE NOW CLAIMS 50,000-60,000 MILITANTS, LARGELY ON THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNATURES COLLECTED BY CANTARERP IN HIS DRIVE TO QUALIFY RSE UNDER THE OLD POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS LAWS. THIS, THE ALLIANCE'S LEADERS CONTEND, MAKES THEIR GROUPING THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIALIST FORCE IN SPAIN. THERE ARE FEW WHO WOULD TAKE THIS ASSERTION SERIOUSLY. BUT IT IS TRUE THAT IF IT ATTRACTS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF OTHER LIKE MINDED GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY, EVEN THOUGH NONE OF THEM IS BY ITSELF A POLITICAL HEAVYWEIGHT, THE ALLIANCE COULD BECOME A MORE SIGNIFICANT ELECTRIAL FORCE THAN ITS DETRACTORS LIKE TO THINK. THIS WILL TAKE IMMENSE EFFORT HOWEVER, AN MORE POLITICAL SAVVY THAN THE ALLIANCE'S LEADING PERSONALITIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO DATE.

4. AN INTERESTING FACET OF THIS THREE PARTY MERGER IS THAT BY ACCEPTING CANTAERO, GARCIA LOPEZ AND THE PSOE "HISTORICOS" BROKE A LONG ESTABLISHED TABOO AGAINST ALLYING WITH THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRANCO REGIME. IN CANTARERO'S CASE, HIS POLITICAL ORIGINS IN THE FALANGIST YOUTH AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE FACT THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE ARIAS GOVT'S POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS PROJECT WERE OBSTACLES WHICH HAD TO BE OVERCOME. STABLER

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